In The Specification

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It is the nature of IP based networks such as the Internet, Intranets or Extranets that content items are cached at various locations on the network. The caching may for example be in a dedicated cache server located in the core network. The purpose of the caching is to reduce the number of file accesses to the original location of the file thereby to reduce traffic on the network and increase access speeds. However, a locally cached version of a content item, is often available only to a small group of users because the existence of the local replica is not widely advertised.[[.]] Thus although there may be many copies of the same content item distributed across the network, these copies or replicas are available in each case only to a small group of users. Thus it may be that a particular user requests an item from a server located many thousands of miles away even though there is an identical copy of the content item located nearby. There is presently no mechanism to allow such a locally cached copy to be accessed.

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